

March 2025

# CLINKER



# BREAKER

Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

Established May 18, 1985



### Greater Orlando Region

The Orlando region had a good turnout at their February meeting. See more, page 5



### Forging Metal With Glass

Learn how to capture a marble within a wand, pages 3-4

## FANNING THE FLAMES

Art  
 Knowledge  
 Technique  
 Resources  
 Education  
 Skill



## SOUTHERN BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION

May 15-17, 2025 Madison, Georgia

### SBA Conference

Registration is open for the SBA in Madison, Ga., at the Lions Club Fairgrounds May 15 through May 17, 2025. Learn more, page 7

# Regional Events & Information



FABA has eight regions, and regular meetings are held in each region on the following Saturdays of each month: 1st Saturday—Central NE / 2nd Saturday—NW / 3rd Saturday—SE, Greater Orlando & Gainesville / 4th Saturday—Far West & SW.

The NNE meetings will be the 2nd or 3rd Saturdays (depending on the month).

The regions have no boundaries – everyone is welcome everywhere. Come to more than one if you can!

The dates may vary, so check the schedule noted in the Regional Reports or on Facebook, or contact the Regional Coordinator.

Our meetings are informal gatherings around the forge. Prospective members are always welcome. Come for all or any part of a meeting, bring your tools or just watch. Most meetings run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and you'll want to bring a bag lunch if not otherwise noted. If you have any questions about events, please check the region's Facebook page or contact the Regional Coordinators:

Greater Orlando Region	John Hare	802-373-1190	legacy.john.hare@gmail.com
Gainesville Region	Jordan Borstelmann	352-727-8260	crookedpathforge@gmail.com
Central Northeast Region	Heinrich Hole	386-848-6982	heinrich.faba@gmail.com
North Northeast Region	Doug Hayes	910-330-7601	djhayes29@hotmail.com
Northwest Region	John Pfund	850-528-3280	johnwpfund@aol.com
Southeast Region	Peter Hill	651-635-6022	blazeblades561@gmail.com
Southwest Region	Antony Fenn	617-320-4781	antony.fenn@gmail.com
Far West Region	Christopher Sandlin	850-865-9596	Chris@traditionsworkshop.com

**Florida Artist Blacksmith Association (FABA)** is a nonprofit organization chartered with the state of Florida that is dedicated to promoting and expanding the horizons of architectural, artistic and practical blacksmithing while preserving the rich heritage of this craft.

FABA Officers and members assume no responsibility or liability for injuries or damage caused as a result of the use of any information, materials, design, techniques, etc., contained in this newsletter; our website, [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org); our Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/FloridaBlacksmiths](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaBlacksmiths); any of our regional Facebook pages; or provided at meetings or demonstrations.

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# Success to fund regional training directives

2024 was a very good year for FABA. Because of our collective success, in 2025 we will fully fund our both our scholarships and each of the regional coordinators will have \$600 for use with their local training programs. These funds can be used by the regions to invite demonstrators, hold special workshops, build tools or otherwise further our mission – to teach, to preserve – the art and craft of blacksmithing. Regions are welcome to consolidate their funds/activities if so desired. Talk with your regional coordinator if you have an idea that you would like to see happen. Funds need to be allocated prior to the July board meeting so start planning now.

## FABACON NEWS

It was on Friday, Valentines Day, and I found out WE HAVE A DATE!

FABA Con 2025 will be held October 10-12. We're still finalizing the contract, but expect hotel booking to open in the next month. Please reserve your hotel room early. The more people we have committed through early bookings the more grant money we earn. Frankly, I was stunned how much the Best Western charges for rooms if you try to book at the last minute. Don't wait!

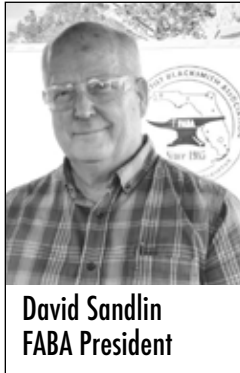
This coming year, we will be doing our best to hold the line on conference costs so more members will be able to attend. Expect changes to our plan for the banquet and gallery. Our hope is we will have even more banquet tickets so everyone will have a seat at the table.

If you have an RV, please consider camping on the green as our "Security" detail. We have never had a problem and would like to keep things that way. Each year Best Western authorizes us to place a limited number of campers around the green to keep an eye on things over night. Help us out, save on lodging and have a front row seat for the conference. We will coordinate this effort through the Program Chair. First come, first served.

## FABA EXPERTISE

I am always impressed with the depth of skill found in our membership. This past month I was talking to Dr. Jim Hrisoulas and found he is the author of several books, and numerous magazine articles and research papers, on the subject of bladesmithing and period metal working techniques used throughout history. His work has won awards at most of the internationally acclaimed knife and custom blade shows in the world.

Over his 50 years, he has had his work displayed worldwide in collections and museums, including the CLINKER BREAKER



David Sandlin  
FABA President

Tower of London and the New York Met. Jim's Doctorate is in the field of Metallography. He understands the working techniques, applications and heat treating of steels and alloys to a very high degree. Sure sounds like someone you'd hope to meet at your next regional hammer-in. Contact him at JPH@atar.com or visit his website: www.atar.com.

Dr. Jim Hrisoulas's books:

- "The Complete Bladesmith" Jim's first book covers the basics that you will need to know, from how to choose the right tools and materials to proper working techniques up to the final fit and finish.
- "The Master Bladesmith" Jim's second book is the second step in bladesmithing. More great information is covered as well as more complicated forgings and more information on swords and spears.
- "The Pattern Welded Blade" Jim's third book contains IN DEPTH information on welding techniques, steel and alloy choices and pattern development.
- A 4th book is in the works!



## TIPS, TECHNIQUES AND IDEAS

Last year at the international blade show, I saw a blade with a captured marble in the hilt. I asked the craftsman how it was done, and he was more than happy to give me some pointers. Unfortunately, I didn't write his name down! So here goes, with my many thanks to the unknown craftsman that was willing to share his knowledge.

Forging metal with glass can be tricky. Not only is glass fragile, unable to take any hammer blows, it also is subject to thermal shock. You can create some interesting effects by fusing glass to the metal (enameling) but that technique is for very thin coats, almost like paint. Capturing a marble (or even a crystal) requires a different technique.



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## President's Message

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First big hint: make or find a metal form. In the picture above, I captured a 1-inch marble in this “wand.” The form I used was a 1-inch ball bearing. You can find both on Amazon, or if you see me at the next hammer-in, ask and I’ll give you one of the dozen I have.

Next, do the math. I used the band saw to split the steel into 4 parts, and each of the two cuts in the ½”x ½” square stock was 1 ½” deep. After spreading out the four legs, I was able to taper them to roughly 3 inches long. That may seem excessive since the circumference of a 1-inch sphere is 3.14 inches, but remember you need to measure through the centroid of the axis of the material you are using for the wrap. The ¼” x ¼” legs mean the circumference is actually 3.92 inches. Then, since the ends are twisted together, you need material for that detail as well. Plan ahead for the curves and twist. A little extra won’t hurt and it is much easier to cut excess material off than it is to draw out more once you start shaping the basket.

I first shaped the basket over the horn of the anvil then heated the basket and captured it upright in the vice. I dropped the steel ball bearing into the basket and proceeded to hammer the tines of the basket over the ball bearing. A set of scrolling tongs are useful at this point to help you shape and position the tines.

Once captured, you can now heat the whole project, including the ball bearing. Hammer and twist to achieve

the desired look that will properly hold the ball bearing. Leave the ball bearing in the basket and accomplish any additional ornamentation work you desire. In my example, I accomplished all the extra twists with the steel ball captured in the basket. Once you have things the way you want, take another heat and use the scrolling tongs to undo one leg of the basket. Shake or tap the steel bearing out of the basket.

The next step requires some mental preparation. You will heat the basket, drop the glass marble into the basket, use the scrolling tongs to close the basket and then quench everything before you get too much heat transfer into the glass. Practice the steps cold a few times before you go for broke. When you do the steps for real, the heated basket will have expanded allowing the marble to drop right in. After you close the basket with your tongs, the quench will cause everything to draw up tight. All this happens in seconds when you make the run for the gold.

When completed you may feel the need to tap or reshape something. Avoid the temptation! Be happy with what you have achieved, otherwise that “just one more tap” may be enough force that you will get to start over.

Don’t forget to sign up for SBA (see details on page 7). Hope and pray your anvil ring true throughout the year!

— **David Sandlin, President**

**News from ABANA**  
*Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America*

**TONG TUESDAY**

Enter to Win!

Enter for a chance to win a pair of tongs at [abana.org/tongtuesday](https://abana.org/tongtuesday) by midnight (ET), April 6, 2025!

Winner announced Tuesday, April 8, 2025

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**



**SUBMIT NOW!**

We're looking for pieces to include in a national traveling exhibition through 2026 to bring the work of blacksmiths and metal artists into the public eye.

Submit your work at:  
<https://bit.ly/2026exhibition>



# Regional Reports

## Greater Orlando Meeting, April 19

Great turnout Saturday on Greater Orlando FABA, many new people engaging and learning blacksmithing! There will be no March meeting for the region. The next meeting is on the third Saturday of April! Everyone is welcome!

April 19th, 9 AM  
UnderGround Metal Works  
660 W Kennedy Blvd Suite A  
Orlando, FL 32810 FL.

For more information and to confirm meetings, contact John Hare at 802-373-1190 or [legacy.john.hare@gmail.com](mailto:legacy.john.hare@gmail.com).

— John Hare, Orlando Regional Coordinator



### NW Region Meeting Report

The February meeting at Roger Bell's House went well. Roger was feeling ill, but we all gathered around him and had a great meeting anyway. About 35 people attended. We've been having Open Forges at Roger's on Tuesday mornings regularly, and that helped with getting ready for the meeting. We set up a forge and anvil by the back porch for demonstrating and had the forge in the shop going for open forging.

Making things from horseshoes was the focus of the meeting, and I made a trivit using some half-inch square stock for the feet, and mortice and tennon joinery to hold them in place.

We had three pots of chilli and one of beef stew for the meal. Freshly baked bread and lots of sides and desserts.

A big Thanks to everyone who helped out! Roger said that we made it easy for him.

### NW Region Meeting, March 8

Our March meeting will be held at the home of Ken and Linda Weldon. The address is 21 W.A. Rogers Road, Monticello, Florida. 32344. The second Saturday is March 8th, just like February was. We're going to be making charcoal during the meeting, but we'll have Ken's forge going in his shop.

We'll take volunteers to demonstrate something there. For the meal, we're going to have bread, cold cuts and everything to make sandwiches. We should bring sides, chips, salads and desserts. Don't forget to bring something to donate to the raffle and I hope to see you there.

— **John Pfund, NW Coordinator**

### SW Region Meeting Report

In February, the Southwest Region continued making their project for the 2025 conference. (We missed the chance to submit a regional project we had planned in 2024 because of back-to-back hurricanes. I thought let's do it now.) Trez Cole joined us at the meeting to start work on the main cross pieces by punching a large hole and doing some big twisting.

FishnChips Forge is located at Unit 213, Sawyer Business Park, 4023 Sawyer Road, Sarasota. The location is close to the corner of Sawyer Road and Bee Ridge Road.

### SW Region March Meeting

Please check our FABA SW Facebook page for more info at [www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674](https://www.facebook.com/groups/228279738123674), or contact [antony.fenn@gmail.com](mailto:antony.fenn@gmail.com). Thank you!

— **Tony Fenn, SW Region Coordinator**

### Central NE Meeting, March 8

Where: Barberville Pioneer Settlement

When: March 8th 9am - 4pm **SECOND SATURDAY!!!!**

Yes, you saw that right. We're moving the March meeting to the second Saturday of the month. I'll be teaching at the Brotherhood event on our normal Saturday, and frankly I think our time would be better spent there that weekend. On the second Saturday, we'll be having a meeting at the Settlement focused on making items for us to sell at the Spring Frolic while we demonstrate. The money brought in from these sales will go to support the region and keep us in the positive. After the Spring Frolic in April, we'll be donating the unsold items to the Pioneer Settlements store for them to sell as a thank you for being our region's generous host.

Speaking of the Spring Frolic, I'm going to be needing some volunteers to help demonstrate on April 5th & 6th. The demonstrations can be whatever you want so long as it's safe. Commitments need be only for one day, but doing both is a great way to get rid of any unnecessary excess energy you may have been desperately trying all week to save up. Demonstrators will be provided a free lunch. We also need to spend a bit of time organizing the shop so it's display ready for the Frolic. Any people willing to work on that during the March meeting will be greatly appreciated. Lunch will be provided by myself for the March meeting but you may, as always, feel free to bring whatever you wish to contribute. CYA there on the **SECOND** Saturday.

— **Heinrich Hole, Central NE Coordinator**



# SBA Conference 2025

The biennial SBA Conference is quickly approaching. The conference will be held again in Madison, Ga., at the Lions Club Fairgrounds May 15 through May 17, 2025.

The Alabama Forge Council, AFC, is heading up the conference this go-round, and the conference theme is Fanning the Flames.

The main demonstrators are Mark Ling and Butch Sheely. Each of the seven chapters will also have someone from their chapter demonstrating for a three-hour block starting Thursday afternoon and running until noon on Saturday. A Thursday evening Meet n Greet is planned, plus a Friday evening seafood buffet with the auction to follow.

We will be having another blacksmithing competition to get the adrenalin pumping, with the winner(s) getting bragging rights for two years and a cash prize.

FABA is in charge of gate security again, and we will need a 3-hour demonstrator for Saturday morning. If you volunteer to demo, you will receive free conference registration. Let me know if you are interested (markham62@comcast.net).

For more information, check out the SBA webpage (<https://sbaconference.org/>) where you will find the demonstrators' bios, schedule of events, and registration and



accommodation information. Book your hotel rooms early as they usually go pretty fast. You should be receiving an e-mail with information in it as well. We look forward to seeing everyone there for what will be another great SBA conference. See you in Madison!

– **Mark Stone, FABA Past President**

## Far West Meeting Schedule

Craig Hines demonstrated the ABANA National Curriculum Level I gate latch at the Far West meeting in February.

The March 22nd meeting will at John Butler's farm, 4112 Bell Lane, Milton FL 32571. Start time will be 9 am for setup and 9:30 for our annual fund-raising class – crafting a Viking era utility knife. This class session is open to the public, cost is \$120/person with a maximum of 12 people. Lunch is included and will be provided by Sonny's BBQ. Even if you are not taking the class, FABA members are encouraged to attend to act as safety observers and coaches.

Location of our April 26th membership drive is still to be determined, as are our meetings for May 24th and June 28th. Expect us to cover the FABA journeyman standards and parts of the ABANA National Curriculum as the year progresses.

– **David and Christopher Sandlin**

## SE Region Meeting

Nice to see a new face at the meeting in February. People are finding out what FABA is all about. Work is being done on Jour-



neyemen requirements. We're starting new projects and finishing what was started last meeting.

The SE Region meets every third Saturday of the month at The Farm, 1566 S. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL. The Farm is located off Military Trail; just turn at the pole painted red,

white and blue, and follow your GPS or Google maps. It should get you there!

Get more info on the FABA SE Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/groups/603288803747002](https://www.facebook.com/groups/603288803747002)

– **Gary Becker, member**





## Gainesville Meeting Report

We all had good fun at the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire in January. We had demonstrations going on all day, as well as several FABA members turning up to swing a hammer and eat a turkey leg! Saturday morning was chilly enough we had to break the ice in the slack tub. There were ice crystals everywhere. Several other Faire performers shared our fire to warm up their hands.

Need more info on the Gainesville Region? Shoot me an email at [crookedpathforge@gmail.com](mailto:crookedpathforge@gmail.com).

— **Jordan Borstelmann, Coordinator**





## North NE Region Meeting Report

The North Northeast Region had some fun with heavy metal. Actually, Doug had a lot of fun giving away buckets of metal drops and even tool steel to help with his 'spring cleaning' for the shop.

For the meeting itself, folks newer to the craft were shown how spark testing works and why it is handy to have some known samples on hand to compare the spark patterns of mystery metal to one with a known carbon content. We also covered annealing, cutting sample pieces and testing them with different quench media for hardness. A demo on using hardness test kits (files of assorted hardness) was also provided, with William showing the proper process to test. A review of heat treatment, with normalization and grain reduction prior to the quench was demonstrated and tempering was reviewed. We wrapped with a bit more discussion on the skyline project.

## NNE Region Meeting, March 8

The March meeting will again be at Iron Osprey Forge (102 Marshall Circle, St. Augustine) on March 8, starting at 9 a.m. Expect more free metal to be distributed, more goodies in the Iron in the Hat, and more fun in the forge. See you next month, and happy hammering til then.

— Doug Hayes, NNE Region Coordinator





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# FABA Scholarships

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## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association Veterans Scholarship Fund Application

1. Recipients must be veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces (Navy, Air Force, Army, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force).
  - a. Individuals must be able to provide proof of service/separation (DD 214 or an appropriate ID)
2. Scholarship will reimburse 80% of a blacksmithing class/course(s) registration fee up to \$100 upon completion of the course, whichever is less. (for example, if the course(s) cost \$135, 80% of that is \$108, so the awardee would receive \$100; if the course(s) cost is \$95 then the awardee would receive \$76). Formula for determining award:  
$$\text{Registration fee(s)} \$ \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \times 0.80 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{TOTAL (awardee would receive \$100 or less of total course registration costs)}$$
3. The coursework must be considered to be directly related to blacksmithing (not welding/fabrication). The FABA Scholarship Committee (defined in article 12 below) reserves the right to determine which coursework is appropriate during the review process.
4. The course instructor must be someone who regularly provides paid blacksmith instruction – in other words is recognized as a legitimate, accepted teacher. Classes at a recognized blacksmith conference (such as the FABA annual conference, The Southern Blacksmith Association biannual conference, SOFA, etc.) are acceptable and specifically at these events, 2 or more classes in one weekend could be stacked and counted as one ‘course’. So, for three (3) FABA intro courses at \$45 apiece, the total would be \$135; 80% of that would be \$108, so the award would be \$100.
5. Before awardee is reimbursed, he/she must provide some proof of completion (documentation of work produced, email from instructor and receipts from course costs). This scholarship is intended for course registration fees only, and does not cover materials or equipment unless those items are part of the course of instruction (i.e. a hammer making course). Students may apply for up to 2 courses per year, but not more than once per six-month cycle and for no more than 3 courses in total.
6. The student must apply for the scholarship prior to the beginning of class (not retroactive). The committee will meet February 15 and August 15 each year to review applications (every 6 months). Up to three applications will be awarded every six months. Coursework does not have to fall within the cycle the student applies, if the application is submitted prior to the start of the course (for example, the student could plan 1 year ahead). The FABA Scholarship Committee (defined in article 12 below) will make that determination during the application process.
7. In any 6-month cycle, preference will be made for beginner classes, then intermediate skill classes as the primary purpose of this fund is to assist veterans to begin their blacksmithing journey.
8. Applicants must be a FABA member to apply and while taking the class/course.
9. Funds can be applied to the FABA annual conference courses, or to similar classes from other guilds or organizations, within the United States. See article 4, above.
10. If anyone wishes to donate additional funds to this scholarship, they agree to abide by the rules above. In other words, future donors cannot modify or change the administration or award process for this scholarship. Any funds donated specifically to this fund will be considered encumbered for this purpose only.
11. Applicants will complete the application and submit their request via email to (add email contact) or through the electronic form on [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org).
12. The FABA Scholarship Committee is comprised of a three-member panel of FABA members. At least one member of the panel will have military experience (active duty or reserve) and two others will be FABA Board members. The President, Treasurer and Vice-President will appoint the members of the Veterans Scholarship committee. Members will serve a minimum one-year term but may be reappointed multiple times.
13. Awardees will be notified via email and USPS the status of their application approximately two weeks after the committee meets.

**Contact Doug Hayes at [djhayes29@hotmail.com](mailto:djhayes29@hotmail.com) or download an application at [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org)**



# Walt Anderson Scholarship deadline June 30

This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Walt Anderson, one of our charter members. Its purpose is to further the craft of blacksmithing, and any FABA member who has been in good standing for at least one year qualifies to apply. The \$1,000 award may be divided evenly amongst multiple winners. If a single winner, the award is limited to the actual cost or \$1,000, whichever is lesser. It may be used for materials, tuition, lodging and transportation (paid at the rate of 43.2 cents per mile or the actual cost of public transportation, whichever is lesser).

A letter of application or a detailed email may be submitted provided the applicant answers the following questions:

1. What is your name, address and phone number?
2. How much experience in blacksmithing do you have?
3. How will this instruction help you with your blacksmithing craft?
4. What is the name of the school you wish to attend?
5. What is the name of the course and the name of the instructor teaching the class?

6. What costs will be incurred (tuition, lodging, transportation, etc.)?

Note: By accepting the Walt Anderson Scholarship, the applicant agrees to provide a demonstration of learned skills during a regular FABA meeting, and to write an article concerning the learning experience, including a “how-to” portion, for publication in the Clinker Breaker within 6 months of completing the class.

The next item is not required but strongly suggested: An item should be made with the new knowledge and offered for auction at the Annual Conference.

Completed letters of application or emails should be sent to John Butler, Chair, FABA Scholarship Committee, 777 Tyre Road, Havana, FL 32333 or [jgbutler@sprintmail.com](mailto:jgbutler@sprintmail.com).

Deadline for receipt is June 30, 2025. Three finalists will be recommended to the Board. The decision of the Board shall be final, and the successful applicant(s) will be notified after the vote. The scholarship amount of \$1000 may be split evenly amongst multiple candidates if deemed so by the FABA Board of Directors.

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## Support our FABA business members

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### DAMASCUS SPONSORS

David Sandlin - Traditions Workshop - Ft. Walton Beach, FL  
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Doug Hayes - Iron Osprey Forge - St. Augustine, FL  
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Mark Fillmore - Naples, FL  
Cameron LaFrance - Micco, FL

Interested in being a FABA sponsor or expanding your sponsor listing? Contact FABA President David Sandlin at [President@blacksmithing.org](mailto:President@blacksmithing.org) and include your business name, tag line, and contact information.

# THE FLORIDA CLINKER BREAKER

## Florida Artist Blacksmith Association

David Sandlin, President  
114 Choctaw Cove  
Valparaiso, FL 32580



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### March 2025

## FABA Officers

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Vice President	Lisa Anne Conner	Vicepres@blacksmithing.org
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Secretary	Tia Kitchen	Secretary@blacksmithing.org
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Program Chair	Lisa Anne Conner	FABAprogramcoordinator@gmail.com
WebMaster	Jessica Sandlin	FABAwebmaster@gmail.com

**FABA Membership Application:** Membership begins when your application and \$30 membership fee is received. Membership is per family and lasts one year. Use your credit card to join or renew your FABA Membership via WIX by going to [www.blacksmithing.org](http://www.blacksmithing.org) and clicking the **JOIN FABA** button to access the Square payment system.

OR send the below application and your check to "FABA" for \$30 to FABA's temporary Membership Secretary at:

FABA Membership Secretary,  
C/O Sandlin  
114 Choctaw Cove  
Valparaiso, FL 32580

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ I want B&W Newsletter by mail (quarterly) \_\_\_\_\_ OR Color Newsletter by Email \_\_\_\_\_